

Word Splash – Picture Splash

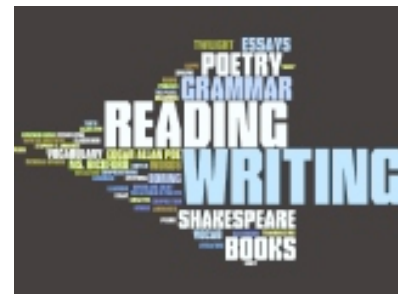
Word Splash was originally developed as a prereading strategy by reading researcher Dorsey Hammond of Oakland University, Rochester, Michigan, who calls it the Key Word Technique.

A Word Splash is a collection of key terms or concepts selected from a chapter in a textbook, a lecture, a demonstration, or from audiovisual materials which students are about to read, see, or hear. The selected terms are splashed at angles on a chart of overhead transparency. Students are asked to generate complete statements – not just words or phrases – of their predictions regarding the relationship of the term(s) to the topic. Students usually work in small groups to generate statements.

Once the statements are generated, the printed material is presented to the students. They read it together and pause after each paragraph or two to check their predictions against the data that is presented. Students should modify their statements as needed and place a question mark next to any statements that are not verified or negated. You may want to assign the roles of recorder, reader, and checker to students.

For younger students, a splash of pictures exercises the same cognitive function.

Students predict elements of the story and search for connections between ideas in the illustrations. One way to create the splashes is to purchase a paperback copy of the selected text and cut out the pictures. Another way is to photocopy some or all of the illustrations to create the splash for small groups of students to sort and sequence. These picture sets then make excellent cues for student retelling of the story.



Variations:

- The same procedure can be followed for a lecture, demonstration or audiovisual presentation, interspersing the Word Splash process by pausing periodically for students to examine their statements.
- Another option is to give groups or individuals copies of the splash on which to record their statements.
- Once students are familiar with the strategy, they can create their own word splashes. Used in this manner, the strategy becomes an organizing and integrating exercise. This process can also be used as a form of alternative assessment.
- Use <http://www.wordle.net/> to create your Word Splashes online.